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Maine Writers Correspondence

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September 2015

Berta and Elmer Hader Correspondence

Berta Hoerner Hader 1890-1976

Elmer Stanley Hader 1889-1973

Hilda McLeod

Maine State Library

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HADER, BERTA and ELMER

b. Mexico and Pajaro, California respectively.

summer residents of Sebasco, Maine

Hader, Berta.

Berta Hoerner was born in a small town in Mexico. Her parents were both citizens of the United States and left Mexico when she was about two. Attended the University of Washington for two years. Enjoyed drawing more than any other school work. In the third grade she won a prize for an essay. She began a career as a fashion artist. She married Elmer Hader in 1919. Since that time they have worked together making feature pages for children in several magazines. They live near the second widest place in the Hudson River, a place called "Tappan Zee" by the old Dutch people.

Hader, Elmer.

Elmer Hader was born in Pajaro, California on September 7, 1889. Later his family moved to San Francisco and were there during the earthquake. For a time he was a bugler in the coast artillery of the National Guard. He worked for the railroad until he was seventeen when he quit to go to art school in San Francisco. He won several scholarships and later went to Paris to study. He entered the war and after it was over he returned to the United States and married Berta Hoerner.

From: Junior book of authors.

December 14, 1937

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hader
c/o Macmillan Company
60 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Berta and Elmer Hader:

When we learned that you were writing a book with a Maine background, we became quite excited, for we know how popular your books are, and we considered it a mark of prestige that you had chosen this state for the setting of TOMMY THATCHER GOES TO SEA.

Then we wondered if, although you were not born in Maine, we could claim you through residence at any time. We are particularly interested on account of the Maine Author Collection, which numbers several hundred inscribed presentation volumes, written by persons born in Maine, resident here, or who have written about the state. It is always welcome news that we can add a name to our literary roster, and for that reason we are writing to inquire if we may consider you Maine authors.

Such a book as TOMMY THATCHER GOES TO SEA should certainly be included in a collection of Maine books, and we hope we may be privileged to add an inscribed copy to the shelves of this exhibit collection.

We send you our very best wishes for a successful continuation of your most fascinating books.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY
BY

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SECRETARY

ELMER S. HADER
RIVER ROAD
NYACK, N. Y.

December 18th 1937

Hilda McLeod
Secretary Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine

Dear Miss McLeod:

Thanks for your letter of December 14th. We feel highly honored that you want to include us in the Maine Author Collection and we hereby and in great haste (ere you change your mind) present a copy of TOMMY THATCHER GOES TO SEA properly autographed to the Maine State Library.

We hope that the little incident of being born elsewhere will not bar us from the honor roll of Maine authors. Although not legal residents of the state, we did spend a very happy summer painting and writing, in the little village of West Point near Sebasco. The backgrounds for the illustrations in the book were copied from sketches made by us at that time. We frequently visit friends who are the lucky owners of a lovely home on Mt. Desert. , Surely anyone who has set foot in Maine, could not help feel, that to be adopted as a Maine author, a distinct honor.

We are tremendously pleased that you like our books.

Sincerely yours,

Berta and Elmer Hader

December 21, 1937

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer S. Hader
River Road
Nyack, New York

Dear Berta and Elmer Hader:

What a very charming response to our letter! And how very fortunate the Maine Author Collection is to receive the delightfully inscribed copy of TOMMY THATCHER GOES TO SEA! We are breathless with appreciation of our special page, which adds so much to the book's interest and value. It is lovely! We send you our most sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity, for such flattering promptness at this busy season, and especially for writing such appealing books.

It is we who are honored that you have painted and written of Maine. We appreciate the compliment of your feeling of warmth for our state, and hope that we may play eager host to you for many, many more summers.

Please accept our very cordial greetings of the season, and again our enthusiastic thanks and pleased gratitude for TOMMY THATCHER GOES TO SEA.

Very truly yours

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